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EYES ONLY

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DOS Review Completed.

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EYES ONLY VIA BUNKER CHANNEL

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY UPON OPENING OF BUSINESS

WHS2295

OCTOBER 24, 1972

FOR: AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FROM: HENRY KISSINGER

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION WHICH SUGGESTS THAT WERE I TO CONDUCT THE NEXT ROUND WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN HANOI VICE PARIS THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVING MODIFICATIONS AND KEEPING HANOI ON THE RESERVATION FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY IMPROVED. SHOULD SUCH A TRIP BE UNDERTAKEN, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO BUY TWO OR THREE MORE WEEKS AND WOULD, OF COURSE, UNDERTAKE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH SAIGON BEFORE A FINAL SETTLEMENT WOULD BE ARRIVED AT.

I AM COMMITTED TO RESPOND TO THIS SUGGESTION BY NOON TOMORROW WASHINGTON TIME AND, THEREFORE, NEED YOUR BEST ESTIMATE ON THE EFFECT A VISIT BY ME TO HANOI MIGHT HAVE ON THE SITUATION THERE. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE WITH RESPECT TO SUCH A TRIP AND WERE IT TO BE UNDERTAKEN WE WOULD DO SO SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING HANOI UNDER CONTROL AND WITH THE VIEW TOWARD GETTING AS MANY OF THE CHANGES AS WE CAN FROM HANOI. PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR BEST JUDGMENT ON THIS OPTION SO THAT YOUR VIEWS ARRIVE HERE IN WASHINGTON BEFORE NOON WASHINGTON TIME TOMORROW, OCTOBER 25TH.

WARM REGARDS.

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